

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 34, wherein said gravity gradiometer is a crossed dumbbell type gravity gradiometer.
3. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 34, wherein said coarse stage isolation mount has a first natural frequency and said first natural frequency exceeds said second low pass cutoff frequency.
4. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 34, wherein said coarse stage isolation mount controls a displacement of said fine stage isolation mount relative to said ~~vehicle~~ aircraft.
5. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 ~~further comprising a mobile vehicle including an aircraft~~, wherein said coarse stage isolation mount is mounted to in said ~~mobile vehicle~~ aircraft and wherein said ~~mobile vehicle~~ aircraft ~~comprises~~ includes a navigation system and a flight control system, said flight control system and said navigation system interacting ~~so as~~ to control a flight path of said ~~mobile vehicle~~ aircraft, said flight control system operable by at least one of a human pilot and an autopilot system.
6. (currently amended) The system of claim 5, wherein said coarse stage isolation mount communicates with said navigation ~~system~~ and flight control systems whereby accelerations of said communication causing said fine stage isolation mount to travel along a flight path that is substantially smoother than said flight path ~~of~~ are substantially less than accelerations of the aircraft during flight, and

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consequently said fine stage isolation mount and said gradiometer are caused to travel along a smoother flight path than the mobile vehicle aircraft.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 34 further comprising including:

~~a mobile vehicle~~ an aircraft housing said gravity gradiometer, said coarse stage isolation mount, and said fine stage isolation mount ~~and said gravity gradiometer.~~

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 8₁ wherein said coarse stage isolation mount ~~comprises~~ includes a control system for determining and controlling a the position of said fine stage isolation mount in at least one of three translational degrees of freedom.

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 10₁ wherein said coarse stage isolation mount ~~further comprises~~ includes a control system for determining and controlling said position of said fine stage isolation mount relative to a smoothed representation of ~~said a~~ flight path of said ~~mobile vehicle aircraft~~ aircraft ~~where said controlling is constrained by interior dimensions of said mobile vehicle.~~

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 10₁ wherein said fine stage isolation mount ~~comprises~~ includes a control system for determining and controlling a the position of said gravity gradiometer in the six degrees of freedom associated with motion of a rigid body.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 12₁ wherein said control system of said ~~coarse~~ fine stage isolation mount directs said fine stage isolation mount

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towards a home position, ~~where said home position is measured relative to said~~
~~coarse stage~~ the aircraft.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 ~~34~~, wherein said ~~first low pass~~
~~cutoff frequency is adjustable~~ coarse stage isolation mount includes an adjustable
control system for attenuating displacements of the gradiometer at various low pass
cutoff frequencies according to motion characteristics of a selected ~~vehicle~~ aircraft
and acceleration response characteristics of said gravity gradiometer.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said fine stage
isolation mount comprises a control system for determining and controlling a position
of said gravity gradiometer in the six degrees of freedom associated with motion of a
rigid body.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 34, wherein said fine stage
isolation mount ~~further comprises~~ includes:

a base mounted on said coarse stage isolation mount;

a floater magnetically levitated relative to said base, said floater providing a
mount for said gravity gradiometer;

a plurality of accelerometers adapted to measure said vibrations; and

a plurality of position sensors adapted to measure a relative position of said
floater with respect to said base in the six degrees of freedom associated with
motion of a rigid body; and

~~said base mounted to said coarse stage isolation mount.~~

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18. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein said accelerometers are at least one of linear accelerometers, ~~gyroscopes~~ and rotational accelerometers.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) An apparatus for measuring gravity gradients comprising:

a gravity gradiometer;

a means for isolating, ~~above a first low pass cutoff frequency~~, displacements of the gradiometer above a first low pass cutoff frequency; and

a means for isolation, ~~above a second low pass cutoff frequency~~, vibrations of the gradiometer above a second low pass cutoff frequency, where said vibrations are characterized by a minimum frequency, ~~where said second low pass cutoff frequency is~~ being greater than said first low pass cutoff frequency and less than said minimum frequency of said vibrations, and

~~a gravity gradiometer mounted to said means for isolating vibrations; and~~

~~where~~ wherein said means for isolating vibrations is mounted ~~to~~ on said means for isolating displacements.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said means for isolating vibrations is ~~at least one of a pneumatic mount and a magnetically levitated~~ isolation mount.

23. (currently amended) A method for obtaining fine resolution gravity gradient data comprising:

transporting a gravity gradiometer in a ~~mobile vehicle~~, ~~said mobile vehicle~~ an aircraft experiencing accelerations and displacements;

isolating, in a coarse stage, ~~isolating~~, above a first low pass cutoff frequency, said accelerations and displacements;

isolating, in a fine stage, ~~isolating~~, above a second low pass cutoff frequency, said accelerations and displacements, where said accelerations and displacements are characterized by a minimum frequency, where said second low pass cutoff frequency is greater than said first low pass cutoff frequency and less than said minimum frequency of said ~~vibrations~~ accelerations and displacements;

tracking a position of said ~~mobile vehicle~~ aircraft in the six degrees of freedom associated with motion of a rigid body;

during said isolating said accelerations and displacements in said coarse and fine stages, measuring gravity gradients using a gravity gradiometer; and

tabulating said gravity gradients as a function of said position of said ~~mobile vehicle~~ aircraft.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said tracking comprises:

identifying said position of said ~~mobile vehicle~~ aircraft using at least one of an inertial navigation system (~~INS~~) and a global positioning system (~~GPS~~).

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein isolating said accelerations and displacements in said fine stage comprises:

measuring accelerations of a floater magnetically levitated relative to a base using electromagnets, ~~said floater magnetically levitated relative to said base by use of electromagnets~~;

measuring relative the position of said floater with respect relative to said base; and

compensating for said accelerations through variable application of current through said electromagnets.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein ~~said~~ isolating of said accelerations and displacements in said coarse stage comprises:

measuring accelerations of said fine stage,

measuring relative the position of said fine stage relative to the aircraft; and

counteracting said accelerations measured through application of counteracting force to the coarse stage.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein ~~said~~ isolating of said accelerations and displacements in said coarse stage ~~further comprises~~ includes:

determining said position of said fine stage relative to said ~~mobile vehicle~~ aircraft;

applying forces to said fine stage responsive to said position determined so as ~~to reposition said fine stage towards a home position in, and relative to, said mobile vehicle~~ aircraft.

28. ~~(cancelled)~~

29. ~~(cancelled)~~

30. ~~(cancelled)~~

31. (currently amended) An aircraft generating data corresponding to gravity gradient measurements, said aircraft comprising:

a gravity gradiometer mounted in the aircraft;

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a coarse stage isolation mount mounted in the aircraft adapted to attenuate, above a first low pass cutoff frequency, displacements, ~~said coarse stage mounted within said aircraft~~ of the gradiometer relative to a flight path ideal to the measurement of gravity gradient and

a fine stage isolation mount mounted on said coarse stage isolation mount adapted to attenuate, above a second low pass cutoff frequency, vibrations of said gradiometer relative to a flight path ideal to the measurement of gravity gradient, where said vibrations are characterized by a minimum frequency, ~~where~~ said second low pass cutoff frequency is being greater than said first low pass cutoff frequency and less than said minimum frequency of said vibrations, ~~said fine stage isolation mount mounted to said coarse stage isolation mount; and~~

~~a gravity gradiometer mounted to said fine stage isolation mount.~~

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)

34. (new) A gravity gradient measuring system for use in an aircraft comprising:

a gravity gradiometer for mounting in an aircraft;

a coarse stage isolation mount for mounting in an aircraft adapted to attenuate, above a low pass cutoff frequency, displacements of the gradiometer relative to a flight path ideal to the measurement of gravity; and

a fine stage isolation mount carried by said coarse stage isolation mount and supporting said gradiometer for attenuating, above a second low pass cutoff frequency, vibrations of the gradiometer relative to a flight path ideal to the measurement of gravity gradient.